


REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make minor editorial changes and to add paragraph number. None of these amendments affects the scope or content of the disclosure. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 1-25 have been amended to be in step-plus-function form and to delete an unnecessary limitation in claims 1, 10, 20 and 23. Method claims that are not in step-plus-function form have been added as claims 26-48, apparatus claims have been added as claims 49-59 and computer readable medium claims have been added as claims 60-65. Basis for the newly added method claims may be found in the originally filed claims 1-25. Basis for the newly added apparatus claims may be found in Fig. 1 and in the originally filed specification at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 14. Basis for the computer-readable medium claims may be found in the originally filed specification at page 7, lines 5-14. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants request that the substitute specification and the amended claims be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

Respectfully Submitted,



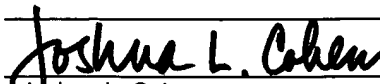
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 1. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer
2 and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for a patient comprising ~~the steps of~~:

4 (a) ~~—facilitating a connection between the client computer and the~~
5 ~~central computer;~~

6 (b) a step for receiving at the central computer a laboratory test
7 request from the client computer and patient, billing, and diagnosis information
8 corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 (c) a step for transmitting to the client computer information for
10 generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the a step~~
2 of for verifying at the central computer that the requested laboratory test is payable by
3 a responsible party identified in the billing information for the identified diagnosis.

1 3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, said receiving step
2 comprising a step for receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code, said
3 verifying step comprising a step for searching a code database for correspondence
4 between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, said verifying step
2 comprising a step for determining for the identified diagnosis and the requested
3 laboratory test whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the
4 identified diagnosis.

1 5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising ~~the a step~~
2 of for transmitting a notification to the client computer if the requested laboratory test
3 is not payable by the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising ~~the a~~ step
2 ~~of for~~ requesting a payment guarantee from the client in response to the notification.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising ~~the a~~ step
2 ~~of for~~ transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information to the client
3 computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible
4 party for the identified diagnosis.

1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the a~~ step
2 ~~of for~~ transmitting a request for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions
3 are required for the requested laboratory test.

1 9. (Amended) The method of claim 1, said receiving step
2 comprising:

3 (a) a step for receiving a patient identification at the central computer
4 from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom
5 the test is being ordered;

6 (b) a step for receiving billing information at the central computer
7 from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 (c) a step for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer
10 from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 10. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer
2 and a central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for a patient comprising ~~the steps of~~:

4 ~~(a) — facilitating a connection between the client computer and the~~
5 ~~central computer;~~

6 (b) a step for transmitting to the central computer a laboratory test
7 request from the client computer and patient, billing, and diagnosis information
8 corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 (c) a step for receiving from the central computer information for
10 generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~the~~ a step
2 ~~of~~ for receiving a notification from the central computer if the requested laboratory
3 test is not payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information for the
4 identified diagnosis.

1 12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising ~~the~~ a step
2 ~~of~~ for guaranteeing payment by the client in response to the notification.

1 13. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising ~~the~~ a step
2 ~~of~~ for transmitting additional diagnosis information to the central computer if the
3 requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the
4 identified diagnosis.

1 14. (Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising ~~the~~ a step
2 ~~of~~ for transmitting additional information to the central computer if ask-at-order-entry
3 questions are required for the requested laboratory test.

1 15. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step
2 comprising a step for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested
3 laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising ~~the~~ a step
2 ~~of~~ for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes
3 commonly used by the client.

1 17. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step
2 comprising a step for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified

3 diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising ~~the a step~~
2 ~~of for~~ customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly
3 used by the client.

1 19. (Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step
2 comprising:

3 (a) a step for transmitting a patient identification from the central
4 computer to the client computer, thereby providing information about the patient for
5 whom the test is being ordered;

6 (b) a step for transmitting billing information from the central
7 computer to the client computer, thereby providing information about a party
8 responsible for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 (c) a step for transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central
10 computer to the client computer, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the
11 identified patient.

1 20. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer
2 and a central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising ~~the steps of~~:

4 ~~(a) facilitating a connection between the client computer and the~~
5 ~~central computer;~~

6 (b) a step for receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

7 (c) a step for receiving at the central computer a request from the
8 client computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of
9 patients; and

10 (d) a step for transmitting to the client computer the laboratory test
11 results:

1 21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, said receiving step
2 comprising a step for receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of
3 patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 22. (Amended) The method of claim 20, said transmitting step
2 comprising a step for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a
3 patient, said receiving step comprising a step for receiving an identification of a
4 patient and a number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 23. (Amended) In a computer network including a client computer
2 and a central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising ~~the steps of:~~

4 ~~(a) facilitating a connection between the client computer and the~~
5 ~~central computer;~~

6 (b) a step for transmitting to the central computer a request from the
7 client computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of
8 patients; and

9 (d) a step for receiving from the central computer the laboratory test
10 results.

1 24. (Amended) The method of claim 23, said transmitting step
2 comprising a step for transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on one
3 of patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 25. (Amended) The method of claim 23, said receiving step
2 comprising a step for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a
3 patient, said transmitting step comprising a step for transmitting an identification of a
4 patient and a number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

1 26. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

4 receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through the
5 network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request
6 and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test;
7 and

8 transmitting information through the network from the central computer to the
9 client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label
10 for use with the biological specimen.

1 27. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of
2 analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the requested laboratory
3 test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 28. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part of the at least one
3 query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for correspondence
4 between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 29. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, wherein said analyzing step
2 comprises comparing the identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory test to a maximum
3 value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified
4 diagnosis.

1 30. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to the client
3 computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for
4 the identified diagnosis.

1 31. (Newly Added) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of
2 requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in response to the

3 notification.

1 32. (Newly Added) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network from the
3 central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the
4 identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 33. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting a request through the network from the central computer to the client computer
3 for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested
4 laboratory test.

1 34. (Newly Added) The method of claim 26, said receiving step
2 comprising:

3 receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one
4 query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom the
5 test is being ordered;

6 receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one query
7 from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one query
10 from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

1 35. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a
3 patient comprising the steps of:

4 transmitting at least one query through the network from the client computer
5 to the central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,
6 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

7 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
8 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with
9 the biological specimen.

1 36. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of
2 receiving a notification through the network from the central computer if the requested
3 laboratory test is not payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information for
4 the identified diagnosis.

1 37. (Newly Added) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of
2 receiving, at the client computer, information including an acknowledgement by the patient
3 that the client is responsible for payment in response to the notification.

1 38. (Newly Added) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting additional diagnosis information from the client computer to the central
3 computer through the network if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified
4 responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 39. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of
2 transmitting additional information from the client computer to the central computer through
3 the network if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested laboratory test.

1 40. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested laboratory test from
3 a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 41. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified diagnosis from a menu
3 of diagnosis codes.

1 42. (Newly Added) The method of claim 35, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises:

3 transmitting a patient identification from the central computer to the client

4 computer through the network, thereby providing information about the patient for whom the
5 test is being ordered;

6 transmitting billing information from the central computer to the client
7 computer through the network, thereby providing information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central computer to the client
10 computer through the network, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 43. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for patients comprising the steps of:

4 receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

5 receiving at the central computer via the network, a request from the client
6 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

7 transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer to the client
8 computer through the network responsive to the received identification.

1 44. (Newly Added) The method of claim 43, wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 45. (Newly Added) The method of claim 43, wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, and said
3 receiving step comprises receiving an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be
4 transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 46. (Newly Added) In a computer network including a client computer and
2 a central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen

3 for patients comprising the steps of:

4 transmitting to the central computer from the client computer through the
5 network, a request for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of
6 patients; and

7 receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the
8 network.

1 47. (Newly Added) The method of claim 46 wherein said transmitting step
2 comprises transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a
3 laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 48. (Newly Added) The method of claim 46 wherein said receiving step
2 comprises receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient and said
3 transmitting step comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports
4 to be received in the cumulative report.

1 49. (Newly Added) Apparatus for receiving an order of a laboratory test of
2 a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted
7 from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and
8 patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means for transmitting information from the central computer to the client
10 computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
11 with the biological specimen.

1 50. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said receiving
2 means comprises:

3 means for receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at
4 least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for
5 whom the test is being ordered;

6 means for receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least
7 one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible
8 for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 means for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least
10 one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 51. (Newly Added) Apparatus for ordering a laboratory test of a biological
2 specimen for a patient comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting at least one query from the client computer to the
7 central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient,
8 billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

9 means, at the at least one client computer for receiving information from the
10 central computer, the received information including data for generating a test requisition and
11 a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 52. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the
3 requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 53. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means
2 for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes commonly
3 used by the client.

1 54. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to the identified
3 diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 55. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising means
2 for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly used by
3 the client.

1 56. (Newly Added) Apparatus for providing results of a laboratory test of
2 a biological specimen for patients comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving laboratory test results at the central computer;

7 means for receiving a request from the client computer for laboratory test
8 results and an identification of a patient or group of patients at the central computer; and

9 means for transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer to
10 the client computer responsive to the received identification.

1 57. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein said means for
2 transmitting comprises means for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results
3 for a patient, and said receiving means comprises means for receiving an identification of a
4 patient and a number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 58. (Newly Added) Apparatus for obtaining results of a laboratory test of

a biological specimen for patients comprising:

at least one client computer;

a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client computer;

means for transmitting a request from the at least one client computer to the central computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

means for receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer.

59. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, said means for transmitting comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

60. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network including at least one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

transmitting information through the network to the at least one client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

61. (Newly Added) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a

4 responsible party identified in the billing information.

1 62. (Newly Added) The computer readable medium of claim 61, wherein
2 the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of
3 transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network to the client
4 computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for
5 the identified diagnosis.

1 63. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network including the client
3 computer and a central computer, to perform a method of ordering a laboratory test of a
4 biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting at least one query through the network to the central computer,
6 the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis
7 information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with
10 the biological specimen.

1 64. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a central computer in a computer network including a client
3 computer and the central computer, to perform a method of providing results of a laboratory
4 test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving the laboratory test results;

6 receiving, via the network, a request from the client computer for the
7 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

8 transmitting the laboratory test results to the client computer through the
9 network, responsive to the identification of the patient or group of patients.

1 65. (Newly Added) A computer readable medium including computer
2 program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network including the client
3 computer and a central computer, to perform a method of obtaining results of a laboratory
4 test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting, to the central computer through the network, a request for the
6 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients corresponding to
7 the test results; and

8 receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the
9 network.